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Gerard Magavero

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI
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UNIVERSITY, MISSISSIPPI 38677

GERARD MAGAVERO
Assistant Professor of Law
and Law Librarian

November 13, 1968

Mrs. Pearl W. Von Allmen
University of Louisville
School of Law Library
Belknap Campus
Louisville, Kentucky 40208

Dear Mrs. Von Allmen:

As a present or potential member of the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries you will undoubtedly be interested in a plan for regional law library cooperation generated at our Annual Meeting in August. Sarah Leverette, our current Chairman, has requested that I write to you and relate the action proposed at the Chapter meeting.

The long awaited A.A.L.S. Law Books Recommended for Libraries appeared this year. The complete lists will include some forty thousand titles. At last the law librarian has a qualitative standard against which to measure his own collection. Those of us who have begun this process have discovered sizable gaps which our financial resources can not begin to cover. The problem of underfinancing is a common one in the Southeast, which does not possess the great research libraries of the more prosperous states in our Nation. One answer to this dilemma is closer co-operation among Southeastern law libraries to avoid unnecessary duplication of little used titles. The ultimate goal of regional co-operation would include subject assignments to individual libraries for "in-depth" collecting, and liberal inter-library loan of these materials. It is assumed that every library involved will maintain a basic working collection. The kind of materials which need not be held by every Southeastern law library are those characterized as "B" and "C" in the A.A.L.S. Lists. A large percentage of those titles in the "C" category are written in languages other than English.

As a preliminary step in developing regional co-operation, the Southeastern Chapter will compile a Union List of the titles included in the A.A.L.S. lists. Each interested librarian in this region should purchase the published A.A.L.S. lists from the Fred Rothman Company (\$175). The next step is to compare the lists with your own shelf-list and note your holdings on the lists. The Southeastern

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Chapter will also purchase a set of the Lists which will be circulated to all participating libraries for coded entries as to their holdings. The Chapter's own list, when completed, will represent a Union List of holdings in the Southeast. The completed Union List will then be recirculated to all participants so that they may note on their own lists the codes for libraries holding each title. This knowledge will greatly expedite inter-library loan requests.

It is to be hoped that from this beginning we can go on to higher levels of inter-library co-operation assisted by federal and foundation grants.

Cordially,

Gerard Magavero

Gerard Magavero
Assistant Professor of Law
and Law Librarian

GM:sjc